

Joint meeting
of
Hopkinton Open Space Committee and Hopkinton Conservation Commission

Tuesday, April 20, 2010
Teacher's room, Harold Martin School

Minutes Accepted by Open Space Committee May 26, 2010

OSC Attendees: Ron Klemarczyk, Dijit Taylor, Don Lane, Susan Zankel, Bob LaPree. George Langwasser

Status reports:

- Bohanan update – awaiting responses from NRCS to materials submitted
- Mapping:
 - HHS students Colin Wilkey and Brett Powell have GPSed trail at Ransmeier and taken some photos
 - Eagle Scout candidate Sasha Hubbard includes some conservation lands in his project to create an interactive town brochure. Cons Com sees need for corrections/improvement. http://hopkinton-scouts.org/Troop77/T77_Eagle_Project/ACH/Index.html
 - Can the conservation properties just be added to the tax maps already available on the town's website?
- Conservation easement status:
 - Beyer – no further contact with Audubon yet
 - Rice – Property is cleaned up, ready for further 5RCT inspection and draft conservation easement
 - Rollins – New owner in attendance to discuss best way to deal with debris in cellar hole
 - Stewardship fees – were included in open space bonds and are being held in town general fund
 - New town attorney believes that the three earlier conservation easements (Bermuda Harris, Carson, Ransmeier) must all be ratified by town meeting vote – anticipated for March 2011.
- Signs: extensive further discussion of types of signs. Three purposes of signs may be met by 3 types of signs: trail head location, presence of conservation land/easement, general boundary/awareness. Important to show what property it is and how it was acquired (at least for Open Space Bond properties) Jed found that routed painted wooden signs 18" x 18" would cost about \$270, 24" x 24" signs, \$480, depending in part on the number of letters. Plastic signs from Voss Sign cost as little as \$2 each in batches of 50 all the same.
- Concord Trail Guide – decided not to participate, as there is a cost involved and Hopkinton Recreation Department is working on one. Guests Gail and Peter Beckett offer to acquire and share copy of Rotary supported Henniker Trail Guide.

- Agriculture Commission – still under discussion, headed by Mary Leadbeater
- Brochure from Washington NH Conservation Commission shared
- Just published Municipal Conservation Fund Guidebook presented to conservation commission by co-author Dijit Taylor

Discussion Topics

- Prioritize sign placement - ongoing
- Trail needs/development – some feel that not all conservation lands need trails

OSC Agenda Items

- Minutes of March 16 meeting – accepted as presented
- Committee membership – Bryan Pellerin is resigning from the committee to devote his time to his new duties as Selectman
- May meeting agenda will include a return to discussion of committee priorities delayed from January and February meetings
- Other

Susan to meet with cons com at their May 18 meeting to continue discussion of signage. Next OSC meeting: Wednesday, May 26, 2010.

Also see Minutes of Hopkinton Conservation Commission for April 20, 2010

Respectfully submitted, Dijit Taylor, recorder

DRAFT

Hopkinton Conservation Commission

Minutes of 04/20/2010

Meeting held at 7:30 PM @ Harold Martin School

Hopkinton, NH

Present were: Lee Wilder, Derek Owen, Ron Klemarczyk, Jed Merrow, Erick Leadbeater, Todd Aubertin, Tim White and Byron Carr. The Hopkinton Open Space Committee was also present: Dijit Taylor, Don Lane, Susan Zankel, Robert Knight (from 5 Rivers), and Bob Lapree. George Langwasser from the Hopkinton Select Board. Guests: Bud Clapsaddle, Gail and Peter Beckett.

Meeting called to order at 1935 EDT by Chairman Owen.

1. Introductions
2. Bud owns house at Rollins Property. Clean up of cellar holes on property per conservation easement was discussed. Possible to burn debris in cellar hole? Remove debris from cellar hole and grade walls of hole to a gentle slope. Derek will contact Neil and coordinate with Herme re site visit with Bud, soon, to scope out access and methods.
3. The Becketts are interested in the trailhead @ Ransmeier Forest. Kiosk? See 4.c. below.
4. HCC met with the Open Space Committee. We discussed several items:
 - a. Brochure from the Washington (NH) CC circulated as sample.
 - b. Dijit showed her archive copies of Bohanan Project "papers."
 - c. Signs for protected properties in Hopkinton were discussed with the Sign Committee (from the last meeting). Susan reports committee unable to meet. The use and up-keep of trails was discussed. She did some homework on sign prices. Plastic most durable. Boundary vs. trails head signs. Town owned land markers vs. conservation easement land. Less is more. Taxpayer purchased lands need to be identified. The HCC HAS spent lots of "its monies" on land projects...just the public doesn't always remember that. Have detailed property maps available online.
 - d. GPS coordinates for trails. Dijit reports that HHS students working on project (with photos) for Ransmeier Forest. Any

project re HCC properties must be presented to the HCC for review, before they are presented in a public forum.

- e. Conservation Easement status report. Existing Conservation Easements must be (re) approved at March 2011 Town Meeting. George and Dijit are working on that.
 - f. Stewardship fees for 5RCT easements are available from the respective bonds.
 - g. Concord has two trail guides: Booklet and "newspaper insert." Concord may be willing to put our trails in their guide. Maybe a link to our webpage / maps would be easier.
 - h. Hopkinton Agriculture Commission "idea" is still in progress.
 - i. A HOSC rep will attend the May 18, 2010 HCC meeting to report on signage ideas.
- 5. Minutes of March 16, 2010 HCC were accepted as printed, with minor spelling errors.
 - 6. Information on various projects from MCCC was discussed.
 - 7. Derek and Ron looked at brook at 668 (?) Main Street. Abutter concerned about brook/erosion at recent high flow. Nature at work...
 - 8. HCC Budget discussed. Bohanan funds have not been transferred yet. Change in use tax for 2009 was about average dollar amount. Rate is 35%.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Town owns some land in Warner at Steven's Rail Trail and Bermuda-Harris parcels. At Warner's request, Ron updated the Current Use applications for those two parcels.
- 2. Log yard on Rollins Lot for Hopkinton FLC cut on abutter's lot. It was voted to "empower" Ron to decide if this is OK.
- 3. Logging on Burnham Intervale, next to Town lot. Do we want to have Chase Lot logged at the same time? Ron will check.

Thanks to Lee (and Betsy) for first spring 2010 rhubarb crisp. Next HCC meeting Tues. May 18, 2010 at 7:30 PM at HMS. Open Space Committee will also attend. Tim is host. Meeting adjourned at 2112 EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Wilder

HCC Secretary